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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/553,113

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Preben Lexow

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1894

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7590

02/19/2009

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EXAMINER

CHUNDURU, SURYAPRABHA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1637

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/19/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/553,113	Applicant(s) LEXOW ET AL.	
	Examiner Suryaprabha Chunduru	Art Unit 1637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Application

1. Claims 1-15 are pending.

Priority

2. This application filed on April 22, 2008 is a 371 of PCT/GB04/01673 filed on 4/16/2004 which claims foreign priority to UK 0308851 filed on 4/16/2004.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 14, 2005 has been considered and acknowledged.

Informalities

4. The following informalities were noted:

(i) the dependent claims 2-12, 14-15 recite 'A method according to', it would have been 'The method according to'.

(ii) claim 7 recites 'according to any preceding claim', should have been 'any one of the claims 1 to 6'.

(ii) this application contains sequence disclosures that are encompassed by the definitions for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 CFR 1.821(a)(1) and (a)(2). However, this application fails to comply the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 through 1.825.

The instant application recites sequences that are not identified by SEQ ID No. (see at least Fig. 1) recite a nucleic acid sequence / amino acid sequence with more than 10 nucleotides or 4

amino acids, which is not identified by SEQ ID NO.). It is also noted that the specification does not contain the sequence listing in a paper form and a computer readable form.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-9, 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones et al. (WO 00/39333).

Jones et al. teach a method of claim 1, 3, for identifying specific characteristics of target polynucleotides in a sample comprising

(i) attaching to one end of each target polynucleotide in the sample a polynucleotide signal sequence that is specific for the characteristic under study (see page 82, line 19-37, page 83, line 1-3, page 13, line 17-19, page 17, line 18-37, page 18, line 25-37, page 19, line 1-18, page 69, line 26-37, page 70, line 1-14);

(ii) contacting the target polynucleotides with a molecule (adapter or probe molecules) that interacts with the target polynucleotide if the characteristic is present (see page 17, line 30-35, page 18, line 1-15, page 70, line 15-22, page 83, line 4-20);

(iii) separating those target polynucleotides that interact from that do not (page 83, line 21);

(iv) optionally repeating steps (i) to (iii) (see page 25, line 35-36);

(v) and identifying which signal sequences are present on the separated target polynucleotides, and in which order, to thereby determine the characteristics of each target polynucleotide (see page 18, line 12-15, page 83, line 21-28, page 28, line 6-15).

With regard to the claim 2, 4, Jones et al. teach that the separation of target polynucleotides is carried out by attaching adapter sequence to those target polynucleotides that comprise the molecule and carrying out amplification reaction that comprises both the signal and adapter, wherein the adapter comprises a restriction enzyme recognition sequence (see page 19, 1-37, page 23, line 3-25).

With regard to the claim 5-6, 12, Jones et al. teach that the amplification is carried out by using polymerase chain reaction using adapter sequence as primers (see page 38, line 35-37, page 19, line 1-18).

With regard to claim 7, Jones et al. teach sample is separated into n compartments and wherein n is the number of different characteristics under study and the signal sequence for each compartment is specific for that compartment (see page 28, line 32-37, page 29, line 1-14).

With regard to claim 8-9, Jones et al. teach that the restriction enzyme recognition sequence is specific for a class IIs enzyme that includes SfaNI (see page 66, line 34).

With regard to claim 11, Jones et al. teach that the adapter is immobilized on a solid support (see page 42, line 4-14).

With regard to claim 13, Jones et al. teach a method for determining the sequence of a target polynucleotide comprising

i) treating a sample of a double stranded target polynucleotide to create overhangs at each end having defined number of bases in each overhang (see page 33, line 17-35, page 54, line 13-22);

ii) dividing sample and contacting each sample with a signal sequence and a double stranded adapter sequence and ligating said sequences (see page 54, line 19-31);

iii) carrying out polymerase chain reaction using primers that hybridize to the ends of the polynucleotide, optionally repeating the steps (see page 54, line 32-37);

iv) identifying the presence of the signal sequences on the amplified products, in which order, and determining the sequence of the target polynucleotide (see page 55, line 1-6, page 36, line 24-37).

With regard to claims 14-15, Jones et al. teach that the overhang comprises at least 3 or 4 bases (see page 38, line 23-34). Accordingly the instant claims are anticipated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out

the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones et al. (WO 00/39333) in view of Sorge et al. (US 6,017,701).

Jones et al teach a method for identifying specific characteristics of a target polynucleotide in a sample as discussed above in section 5. However Jones et al. did not teach use of methyl-dCTP.

Sorge et al. teach a method for amplification of a nucleic acid using 5-methyl-dCTP nucleotides (See col. 8, line 46-64, col.19, line 27-52).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method for determining the characteristics of a target polynucleotide as taught by Jones et al. with a methyl-dCTP as taught by Sorge et al. to achieve an expected advantage of developing an improved and efficient method for characterizing the target nucleic acid. An ordinary practitioner would have been motivated to combine the references because one skilled in the art would have a reasonable expectation of success that the combination would result in a sensitive and enhanced method for detecting specific target nucleic acid sequences because Sorge et al. explicitly taught the efficiency of the methyl-dCTP in increasing the melting temperature of the amplification products and provide efficient specific PCR amplification by reducing the non-specific amplification stability (see col. 19, line 37-52) and such modification of the method is considered obvious over the cited prior art.

Conclusion

No claims are allowable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suryaprabha Chunduru whose telephone number is 571-272-0783. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30A.M. - 4.30P.M, Mon - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571-272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Suryaprabha Chunduru/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1637

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